



U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

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House and Senate Finalize Bill to Protect Children and Families

House and Senate Conference Agreement Reached

Washington – Today House and Senate negotiators led by Chairman Judd Gregg (R-NH) of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and Chairman John Boehner (R-OH) of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce agreed to a final version of legislation that will protect America's children. The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 aims to prevent domestic violence before it happens by improving links between agencies serving vulnerable children and encourages new training and better qualifications for child and family service workers.

"This is the first bill our two committees will send to the President together. This fact underscores our strong commitment to children and families. No child should live in fear. With new training, family service workers will be better able to pick up on signs of abuse; with new links between family agencies, we will keep children from falling between the cracks; and with more local input, communities can better make decisions to protect children and prevent domestic violence," said Chairman Gregg.

The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act:

- Reauthorizes Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) with increased funding.
- Encourages new training and better qualifications for child and family service workers.
- Encourages links between agencies to improve services to children.
- Facilitates the adoption of children with special needs by working to eliminate inter-jurisdictional barriers to adoption.
- Provides victims of domestic violence greater access to shelters in times of emergency.

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